

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

The listing of the claims provided below replaces all prior versions of the claims in the application. Please amend the claims as follows:

1.-3. (Canceled)

4. (Previously Presented) The child seat of claim 36, wherein the latch is configured to bend when contacted by a part of the release mechanism.

5. (Previously Presented) The child seat of claim 4, wherein the part of the release mechanism includes a wedge positioned to contact the latch.

6. (Previously Presented) The child seat of claim 36, wherein the release mechanism includes a handle that is selectively movable to disengage the latch from the notch.

7. (Previously Presented) The child seat of claim 6, further comprising an elongate rail connected to the handle and adapted to contact the latch and disengage the latch from the notch.

8. (Previously Presented) The child seat of claim 36, wherein the latch is biased toward engagement with one of the notches.

9. (Previously Presented) The child seat of claim 8, wherein the latch is elastically deformed when disengaged from the notch.

10-20. (Canceled)

21. (Withdrawn) The child seat of claim 6, wherein the handle is located on the top portion of the backrest and is configured to move downward to disengage the latch from the notch.

22. (Withdrawn) The child seat of claim 21, wherein the handle is connected to a slidable rail positioned to contact the latch when the handle moves downward.

23. (Withdrawn) The child seat of claim 22, whereon one end of the rail includes a wedge shaped surface positioned so that when the handle moves downward the latch slides along the wedge shaped surface thereby disengaging from the notch.

24-28. (Canceled)

29. (Previously Presented) The child seat of claim 36, wherein the latch is bendable and the release mechanism has a rail that is arranged to slide on the backrest into contact with the latch to thereby force the latch to bend and disengage from the notch.

30. (Previously Presented) The child seat of claim 29, wherein the release mechanism includes a handle connected to the rail.

31. (Previously Presented) The child seat of claim 30, wherein the handle is configured to be moved downward toward a base of the child seat to disengage the latch from the notch.

32. (Previously Presented) The child seat of claim 29, wherein the top portion of the backrest slides in a guide section of the bottom portion.

33. (Previously Presented) The child seat of claim 29, wherein the rail includes a ramped surface positioned so that when the latch contacts the rail, the latch slides along the ramp to disengage from the notch.

34. (Canceled)

35. (Previously Presented) The child seat of claim 36, wherein the release mechanism is adapted to be moved into contact with the latch to disengage the latch from the notch.

36. (Currently Amended) A child seat comprising:
a backrest having a top portion and a bottom portion, each of the top portion and the bottom portion having a central support surface to engage and support a portion of an occupant's body, wherein the central support surface of the top portion and the central support surface of the bottom portion are substantially co-planar to form a substantially continuous support surface when the top portion is in a lowermost position, the bottom portion having a lower surface for connection to a seat base and an upper surface opposite the lower surface, the upper surface extending substantially horizontally across the bottom portion, the top portion having a belt guide located above the upper surface of the bottom portion providing a path for a vehicle seat belt over a shoulder of the occupant's body, the top portion being movably connected to and vertically adjustable relative to the bottom portion so that the belt guide moves toward and away from the upper surface of the bottom portion for proper orientation of the shoulder belt relative to the occupant's body,
a flexible latch on one of the top and bottom portions;
notches located in the other of the top and bottom portions, wherein the latch is positioned to engage a selected one of the notches to fix the relative vertical position of the top portion to the bottom portion; and
a separate and independently movable release mechanism located at a position spaced from the latch and configured to move substantially vertically to contact the latch to selectively disengage the latch from the notch.

37. (Currently Amended) A child seat comprising:

an adjustable backrest having a top portion and a bottom portion, each of the top portion and the bottom portion having a support surface to contact and support a portion of an occupant's ~~back~~ body, wherein the support surface of the top portion provides a neck and head rest to support the occupant's neck and head and the support surface of the bottom portion provides an upper and lower back rest to support the occupant's upper and lower back, wherein the head and neck rest and the upper and lower back rest form a substantially vertically continuous surface when the top portion is in a lowermost position, the top portion being movably connected to the bottom portion to permit selective adjustment of the neck and head rest of the top portion vertically upward or downward relative to the upper and lower back rest of the bottom portion,

a flexible latch connected to one of the top and bottom portions;

a series of notches located in the other of the top and bottom portions, the notches corresponding to vertically selectable height positions of the top portion relative to the bottom portion, wherein the latch is positioned to engage a selected notch corresponding to a selected height position to fix the top portion relative to the bottom portion; and

a separate and independently movable release mechanism located at a position spaced from the latch and adapted to move substantially vertically to selectively disengage the latch from the selected notch to enable movement of the latch upward or downward to another of the series of notches.